

SC'S COMPETITIVE

EDGETM

Fall 2010

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT *and* GROWTH *through* EDUCATION



The New Man on Campus

Darrel Staat finds his way back home to South Carolina



Message from the System President

November marks the beginning of my fourth month as System President. Since August, I have had the opportunity to speak with a number of people across the state. I've had conversations with representatives from several of our technical colleges, members of the staff at the System Office, business leaders, legislators and the two gubernatorial candidates.

Throughout these conversations, I'm seeing some very consistent themes. In our colleges, I am finding solid educational programs and offerings with state-of-the-art equipment. However, to meet the expectations of students, business/industry and the economic development community, many of our colleges need to update facilities. Among our external stakeholders, perceptions and attitudes are 100% positive. Everyone is very supportive of the System and understands its importance to the well being of individuals and the state as a whole.

I am very pleased with how our colleges and System Office have dealt with a significant increase of students — over 28% in the last two years alone — paired with an unprecedented decrease in state funding — 50% over the same time period. We continue to find ways to keep the System intact, viable and strong.

Yes, we do face some serious obstacles in the budget for FY'11. First, the ARRA funding support will come to an end. Second, South Carolina is far from being out of the recession. The General Assembly is faced with the possible \$1 billion shortfall — which, if proven to be true, has the potential to seriously affect all of state government, including higher education. These two forces create a future full of questions.

The situation we find ourselves in reminds me of Albert Einstein's observation that "in the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." Going forward, we will need to analyze our situation and find those opportunities. Now, more than ever, it is critical to keep the System alive and well — critical because the people of South Carolina, the business community and economic development stakeholders depend on us. I look forward to month four of my tenure and will work diligently to find or make the ways to keep our System secure for everyone's benefit.

When you think jobs, think the SC Technical College System.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Darrel W. Staat". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Darrel W. Staat

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2011 LTA Rally — January 25, 2011



*Please join us on Tuesday, January 25, 2011
for our fourth annual LTA Rally.*

*We look forward to seeing you at the
State House as our students show their
appreciation for the continued support
of Lottery Tuition Assistance!*

Apprenticeship Programs Expand with Help of Community Colleges

by Jennifer Gonzalez (originally published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on September 19, 2010)

The apprenticeship system, long considered an educational relic by some educators and policy makers, is gaining new attention as a promising model for improving job skills and meeting national college-completion goals.

A number of states and community and technical colleges are working to strengthen and expand apprenticeship opportunities. They offer participants a paycheck while taking courses and being trained for an occupation. Traditional trades, such as construction and manufacturing, continue to draw the most students, but newer industries, such as travel, health care, and information technology, have also begun to take part in apprenticeship programs, broadening their appeal.



Melissa Cristofolletti pays a home visit in a certified-nursing-assistant apprenticeship program through the Technical College of the Lowcountry. (Brett Flashnick for *The Chronicle*)

Completion rates in the programs tend to be high. In a recent study by the Urban Institute, nearly two-thirds of sponsors of apprenticeship programs said that at least 70 percent of their apprentices had finished the programs. Only 36 percent of community college students who enroll with the goal of earning a degree or certificate go on to earn one, according to the American Association of Community Colleges.

Completing an apprenticeship raises individuals' average earning potential by more than twice what typical

community college programs do, the Urban Institute says: more than \$200,000 over a lifetime, on average, compared with no more than \$90,000 for typical community-college graduates.

Robert I. Lerman, a senior fellow at the institute and an economics professor at American University, says the apprenticeship model is underused. A nationwide scaling-up of the such programs, he and others say, could go a long way toward meeting President Obama's goals for college attendance and completion.

Shortly after taking office, the president urged all Americans to pursue at least one year or more of higher education or career training. He called the nation's community colleges the main gateway to achieving his

goal but mentioned other avenues as well, including apprenticeships.

“South Carolina’s apprenticeship program reached out not just to the usual construction and manufacturing businesses, but also to industries such as energy, tourism, and health care.”

The president also wants the United States to reclaim its spot as the country with the highest percentage of college graduates by 2020. To reach that goal, eight million more Americans would need to earn college degrees and credentials, a number

that most experts say would be difficult to reach. But credentials earned by apprentices could apply toward the president's goal, and an expansion of those programs could help the nation approach Mr. Obama's benchmark more quickly.

“Expanding apprenticeships could contribute a great deal to raising the share of young people with valued postsecondary credentials,” Mr. Lerman says.

Underutilized Model

Apprenticeship programs that were registered with the federal government—whether affiliated with a college or not—comprised about 500,000 participants

last year. In addition, 500,000 to one million more apprentices are estimated to be in programs that are not supervised or monitored by the federal government, according to a 2009 report by the Center for American Progress.

The number of federally recognized apprentices and apprenticeship programs hit a peak in 2007 but then fell as the nation's economy faltered. Advocates of the programs, including Jane Oates, assistant secretary of labor for employment and training, want the numbers to grow again. Speaking at an economic symposium last year, she recommended that the apprenticeship model be expanded to provide an additional link between education and jobs.

Community and technical colleges serve as the main providers of academic instruction for the majority of apprenticeship programs. Some instruction also takes place at employer-owned or -operated facilities and at trade schools. Apprenticeships range from one to six years in length, but most take four years to complete.

Unlike in other countries, such as Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, the apprenticeship system in the United States is decentralized. The federal government does not run the nation's apprenticeship system but rather plays more of an administrative role, ensuring that registered apprenticeships are following regulations and standards. For the 2010 fiscal year, the government allocated just \$28 million to the Labor Department's Office of Apprenticeship. As a result, any scaling up of such programs would probably occur at the state level.

South Carolina has become the most aggressive in strengthening and expanding its apprenticeship program. The state's Chamber of Commerce and technical college system collaborated to create Apprenticeship Carolina, which has been praised by the U.S. Department of Labor and by think tanks like the Center for American Progress and the Urban Institute for its collaborative and innovative formula.

The program, which began in 2007, has drawn increasing interest from businesses and prospective apprentices alike. Before it began, the state had 90 apprenticeships and 777 apprentices. As of June, those figures had soared to 269 and 2,549, respectively.



The South Carolina apprenticeship program in which Melissa Cristofolletti participates makes a point of including employers in health care, a field that is expected to provide jobs in both the short and the long term. (Brett Flashnick for The Chronicle)

To start the program, the legislature allocated \$1 million to the South Carolina Technical College System. Lawmakers also created an apprenticeship tax credit, which grants companies a \$1,000 credit per apprentice per year for up to four years.

The South Carolina Workforce Investment Board, a government agency, also provided \$1 million in competitive grants to encourage participation by businesses and technical colleges.

Apprenticeship Carolina grew out of a study conducted by the Chamber of Commerce, which found that such programs were being underused in the state as a training model. The chamber turned to the technical college system because of its expertise in workforce training. The System's readySC program, which provides recruiting and training for new and expanding businesses, is consistently ranked in the top five among the nation's workforce training efforts.

The apprenticeship system had zero growth until the chamber handed it over to the colleges, says Robert E. Barnett, the chamber's associate vice president for work-force, education, and manufacturing policy.

Staff members of the technical college system market the apprenticeships to businesses and encourage them to use the colleges for related courses. Seventy-one percent of new apprenticeship programs in the state do so.

Programs in Growing Fields

What sets Apprenticeship Carolina apart from other programs is its aggressive efforts to sign up companies outside the traditional construction and manufac-

Apprenticeships Could Help Nation Reach College Completion Goals

Numerous states are expanding and strengthening their apprenticeship systems, with South Carolina leading the way, but advocates of the earn-and-learn model say it remains underused nationally.

Apprenticeship Carolina

Apprenticeship programs*

2007	90
2008	112
2009	201
2010	269

Apprentices

2007	777
2008	969
2009	1,637
2010	2,549

Top 5 apprenticeships

Industrial maintenance (mechanical and electrical)
Residential electrician
Line installer-repairer, maintainer
Cable-television installer
Production technician

Average earnings

At start of apprenticeship: \$12.30 per hour
At completion of apprenticeship: \$17.46 per hour

U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship programs*

2005	31,383
2006	32,081
2007	32,260
2008	28,873
2009	29,858

Apprentices

2005	583,838
2006	618,743
2007	678,892
2008	566,965
2009	501,582

Top 5 apprenticeships

Electrician
Heavy-truck driver
Carpenter
Plumber
Pipe fitter (construction)

Average earnings

At start of apprenticeship: \$13.99 per hour
At completion of apprenticeship: \$25.82 per hour

*Only "registered" apprenticeships are counted, which are those that meet federal and state standards and offer nationally recognized and portable credentials.

Note: The figures for South Carolina's program represent the time period from the start of Apprenticeship Carolina to date. The national figures represent the five most recent years available.

SOURCES: APPRENTICESHIP CAROLINA AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP

turing trades. A decision was made early on to reach out to businesses in industries such as energy, transportation, tourism, and health care, says the project's director, Ann Marie Stieritz. The fact that those businesses have been receptive shows that the apprenticeship model is not a relic but "truly a 21st century training tool," she says.

The idea of expanding the apprenticeship model beyond the traditional trades has been batted around nationally for some time, but few states have embraced that approach.

In 2001 and 2004, the federal General Accountability Office urged the Department of Labor to expand apprenticeship opportunities. Since then the department has provided grants and other incentives to encourage the information technology and health care industries to incorporate the apprenticeship model into their business practices. Those industries were chosen because of their importance to the economy and their potential for creating jobs both today and over the long term, said Michael Trupo, a spokesman for the department.

The department has made significant strides in expanding health care apprenticeships, with 100 new programs in 40 related occupations.

In South Carolina, Gregg Fulton, president of the Bluffton franchise of Right At Home, an in-home care and assistance agency, says he had been unaware that such apprenticeships were available. After learning that his employees could be trained as certified nursing assistants through a federally recognized apprenticeship program, he decided that his business would participate in Apprenticeship Carolina.

Under the supervision of a registered nurse, apprentices get on-the-job training when they visit the homes of elderly patients. And in courses at the Technical College of the Lowcountry, they learn how to take vital signs and how to bathe and feed patients.

Eight apprentices now participate in the yearlong certified nursing assistant apprenticeship program. Mr. Fulton's goal is to have 25 by the end of the year. "We've always offered in-house training, but a federally recognized program is so much more rigorous," he says. "It

doesn't cost the apprentices anything, and it helps us create a better workforce."

Melissa Cristofolletti, 34, is one of the participants. She has worked as a nursing assistant for several years but lacked the credential that would allow her to earn more money in that role.

Getting more training also would mean that she could provide better care for her patients, she says. She divides her time between taking classes at Lowcountry and receiving on-the-job training when she visits patients. After she completes her apprenticeship, she would like to continue her studies.

"I would love to get more training and become a licensed practical nurse," she says. "I want to go as far as I can."

Community Colleges' Role

Other states are also working to encourage the growth of apprenticeships and to involve community colleges in the programs more frequently.

Washington State offers discounted tuition to apprentices at community colleges, paying half of the course costs as a way to entice sponsors of apprenticeship programs to send participants to the colleges for course work.

Florida exempts apprentices from college fees, and Arkansas offers tax credits of up to \$2,000 to those taking high school or college courses. Connecticut offers to pay employers 50 percent of the wages of apprentices, up to \$4,800, in manufacturing and construction.

Policy experts agree that encouraging more collaborations between apprenticeship programs and community colleges is a key way to strengthen and expand the nation's apprenticeship system. Those arrangements bring added benefits to apprentices as well, notes Kermit Kaleba, a senior policy analyst at the National Skills Coalition, an advocacy group that supports workforce training. The most significant benefit is that apprentices, in most cases, can earn credit toward associate degrees. That gives them more opportunity to further their career aspirations down the road.

However, a number of barriers remain as states and



Melissa Cristofolletti talks about a daily Bible verse with a client, Naomi Finch. On-the-job training and community college classes go into the apprenticeship in home health care. (Brett Flashnick for The Chronicle)

others seek both to expand apprenticeship programs and to increase the number that use community colleges for academic work. Some community colleges may not offer courses well tailored to apprentices' needs. The content may not be specific enough, equipment at the college may be outdated, the courses offered may meet at inconvenient times for working adults, and the starting dates may not meet employers' needs. Math and reading skills required for entrance into an apprenticeship program may present a barrier for people with poor academic skills.

Growth in apprenticeship programs also may be limited by the number of slots employers are able to afford. American University's Mr. Lerman argues that more states should subsidize portions of the tuition of apprentices taking community college courses. He also says states should use the money they receive under the federal Workforce Investment Act to coordinate programs that link apprenticeships and community colleges.

Apprenticeships, he says, could be integral in helping states improve their work forces and in helping the nation meet its college completion goals. "But they haven't been so far," he says, "and that should change."

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Manufacturing is Alive and Well in SC, Much to the Surprise of CNN



In April of this year, the Cable News Network came to South Carolina to do a story on the disappearance of the blue collar worker. What they found instead was ADEX Machining Technologies, one of the fastest growing companies in the United States, according to *Inc. Magazine*. At a time when other companies are downsizing, ADEX has grown over 300% in the past 3 years, and hired over a dozen new employees. CNN was so impressed that they changed the focus of their story to celebrate ADEX and “The New Face of Blue Collar.”*

So how does ADEX manage to succeed in today’s economy when so many other companies are struggling? Two components play a key role – the specialized niche markets they supply, and the customized training incentives provided by readySC™.

ADEX, which stands for Aerospace, Defense and Energy Excellence, focuses on the emerging markets that inspired its name. “These markets employ use of more advanced materials,” said Jason Premo, Co-owner of ADEX. “They require high tech technology and a more highly skilled workforce. They represent an opportunity for continued growth while a lot of other industries are challenged with off-shoring.”

What makes ADEX unique is its ability to perform complex machining of advanced materials such as titanium and Inconel. This requires extremely tight tol-

erances. “The analogy that I use is that a dollar bill is .004 thick,” Premo explained. “The tolerances we deal with are 10 times thinner. So it’s really tolerances that you can’t see, and that demands the most in advanced technology and workforce training. You really have to have the best, most highly skilled people to be able to operate advanced, multi-million dollar equipment and be able to provide the customer that level of quality.”

The CNN segment talked about how ADEX employees represent the “new blue collar worker,” as Premo explained. “There’s a lot of discussion about the knowledge economy and the knowledge worker, and that’s really where we’re going. Companies like Boeing and BMW require a network of strong suppliers to maintain low inventory, speed to market and the quality they need to service their customers. So what that’s done is put a completely different level of demand and requirements of the associates on the floor. They have to be more involved, more empowered, more skilled – they have to be able to make decisions on the floor rather than the traditional kind of worker/supervisor type of relationship.” In fact ADEX associates don’t just run the machines on the plant floor, they also sit at a computer in the front office and *design the parts themselves*.

Helping to enhance the skills of this unique workforce is readySC™, South Carolina’s economic incentive for new and expanding industry. Premo and Co-owner Sean Witty first heard about readySC™ from the Cham-

ber of Commerce and Greenville Technical College. “It’s challenging for small companies to work on a lot of the internal development needed because we don’t have a lot of the internal resources or the budgets of a typical Fortune 500 company,” Premo acknowledged. “So in learning what readySC™ has to offer, we’ve been leveraging the resources they provide for free to companies like ourselves, in training our leadership team, for our associates on the factory floor, to help offset the cost of hiring new high-skilled employees. There’s a lot of cost involved, and readySC™ has helped us grow and actually create more jobs faster than we would have on our own.”

“readySC™ has helped us grow and actually create more jobs faster than we would have on our own.”

—Jason Premo, ADEX Machining Technologies

Premo continued, “It’s helped us hire more aggressively than we would have been able to on our own because of some of the financial offsets that readySC™ is able to do to reimburse and incent companies like us to grow.” In addition to the training provided by readySC™, ADEX is also taking advantage of other South Carolina training incentives provided by Greenville Technical College and Apprenticeship Carolina™.

“We have a few apprentices in the factory – a couple are full-time, and a couple are part-time work study associates that are still in Greenville Tech,” said Premo. “SC offers a nationally recognized apprenticeship program that enables a manufacturer to tailor a program to meet the specific needs of the manufacturer verses a one-size fits all approach. For us, we’re leveraging the curriculum that Greenville Tech already offers through its machine tool technology program. What that does is provide a formal methodology rather than the ‘tribal knowledge’ training approach that a lot of companies use. We’re able to put our associates through a system – modules of training – so that they work towards an end goal. We hope that more companies get involved and support it, because it really does work.”

Premo added that working with readySC™ and Apprenticeship Carolina™ has been very easy. “One thing we should emphasize is the ease of use of all these resources. A lot of companies don’t know that these

resources are available, so we definitely need to bring more awareness. They’re very easy to use, they’re basically free – it’s really a great example of tax dollars at work. This is really working – it’s helping companies grow, become more competitive, create more jobs, and create more higher-wage jobs. You get access to really high quality people to help you develop and design systems and training to put in place. There are financial incentives as well so it definitely helps from a cost standpoint offset some of the budgetary issues that small companies typically have to deal with. I encourage manufactures to reach out to your local readySC™ resource and get educated. Have them come visit your factory and they’ll bring the resources. They’ll do all the work for you – all you have to do is commit to it.”

Premo summed up how important all these incentives are to ADEX’s business plan to become a premiere resource and supplier to growing markets in the Carolinas and the Southeast in the aerospace, defense, and power generation and energy sectors. “These are emerging markets that really mean a lot for our local economy. We really need to focus on these growth industries and support them in every way we can. That means investing in new equipment and technology, but most importantly, our workforce. Companies like Boeing won’t move to our state if they don’t have access to the people they need to run their company. You’ve got to have a skilled workforce. At ADEX we’re definitely very proud of our world class facility, but it’s nothing without the people. We’re not out to be the biggest supplier, but we want to be the best supplier for these emerging markets, and that requires the best employees that you can have. So we’re very dependent on resources like readySC™, our local technical colleges like Greenville Tech, and the support of our economic development community to enable us to reach those heights.”

*see CNN report at <http://newsroom.blogs.cnn.com/2010/04/09/the-new-face-of-blue-collar/>

For more information about readySC™, call (803) 896-5300 or visit www.readysc.org.



Area Commissioners Receive 2010 Trust Fund Grant from ACCT

The South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) has received the 2010 Trust Fund Grant from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). The grant award of \$10,000 over two years will provide training to the members of the 16 Area Commissions that govern the technical and community colleges in South Carolina. The curriculum informs new and current board members on various aspects of their governing responsibilities. The first two modules address the foundations for board service in the SC Technical College System. The first module, "The History of the SC Technical College System" was narrated by Dr. Jim Hudgins, President Emeritus of the System Office. The second module, "Effective Boards of Trustees", was narrated by Dr. Mary Thornley, President of Trident Technical College. Future modules will address issues such as accreditation, fiduciary obligations, and ethical compliance.

SCATCC presented the trustee training at a general session of ACCT's Annual Congress held this October in Toronto, Canada. Three trustees from the System, Mr. Tony Vaughan, Chair of York Tech; Mr. Paul Batson, Chair of Greenville Tech; and Mr. Mack Jackson, Trustee of Midlands Tech, served on the panel with Trident Tech President, Dr. Mary Thornley and Ms. Jennifer Phelps, Executive Coordinator of SCATCC. The project was received by other states, as well as the United Kingdom, since elements of the training can be replicated to address general board governance in any system.

SCATCC Legislative Reception

The annual SCATCC Legislative Reception will be held **Tuesday, January 25th** at the Clarion Townhouse Hotel.



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF
TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS
Advocates for Education That Works!

Dr. Kim McGinnis Named President of Williamsburg Technical College

Dr. Kim Marie McGinnis recently began her role as the first female president of Williamsburg Technical College.

"I am very excited to be the next president of Williamsburg Technical College, which is a dynamic center of the community," Dr. McGinnis says. "It will be a privilege to lead the College into a prosperous future with a focus on outstanding service to students and to the service area."

McGinnis holds a Bachelor of Science degree in landscape horticulture from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC; a Masters of Arts degree in education from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC; and a Doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN.



Dr. Kim McGinnis

McGinnis has held previous positions in the educational field including Vice President of Continuing Education at James Sprunt Community College in Kenansville, NC; Director of Occupational Extension Training, Corporate and Community Education with Carteret Community College in Morehead City, NC; Dean of Technical and Vocational Programs at Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, NC; and Horticulture Programs Department Head and Instructor also at Mayland.

"Everything we [as educators] do is to help ensure student success," Dr. McGinnis says. "The technical college system with its connection to the community and its open door is what education is all about."

readySC™ Spotlight on **RED VENTURES**



Red Ventures is an online marketing company focused on technology innovation, marketing channel development, and sales operations and conversion. The company is known for its expertise in sales generation for both consumer and business verticals. Ranked as one of the top 20 fastest-growing companies on the Inc. 500 list for two years in a row, Red Ventures also landed the #1 spot on the Charlotte Business Journal's 2010 Best Place to Work list.

In December of 2009, Red Ventures moved to its new headquarters in Indian Land, SC. Currently the company employs nearly 600 employees in South Carolina, with another building due for completion by April 2011 that will be able to house an additional 500 employees.

To help train the highly skilled sales agents that Red Ventures needs to acquire customers for its brand partners, ready SC™ has developed a highly customized, interactive 32 hour training program targeted to assist potential candidates to develop the skills needed to be successful. There have been 5 classes so far, and more are being scheduled.

In addition to training, readySC™ has assisted the company with recruitment for Sales Agents and Web Developers. Extensive recruiting campaigns include newsprint, television spots, online advertising, and billboards. The company holds job fairs on site throughout the year, and this year readySC™ has assisted with job fairs held at The Baxter Hood Center at York Technical College and at USC-Lancaster. In addition, readySC™ developed cutting edge recruitment videos to attract top Web Developers. (see <http://www.readysc.org/redventuresfinal.wmv>)

Meet Becky McGuffin

Non-traditional Student Makes Up for Lost Time



Becky McGuffin, a student at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, has returned to the classroom and campus life after many years out of the classroom. She serves as President of the Student Advisory Board, VP of Fellowship for Phi Theta Kappa, member of TRIO, and she is in the Work Study program. In addition, she received a TRIO SCCEOPP scholarship. Becky already has a certificate in welding, and she is studying industrial maintenance with a focus on mechanical and electrical specializations.

Becky is also the recipient of the Steve Dalton Memorial Scholarship and a book scholarship. These scholarships have made her education at OCtech possible. Recently, Becky spent time with Craig Williams, an OCtech grad and the donor that established the scholarship in memory of one of his OCtech instructors. Williams is the founder and president of Amtec Control Integration Company, Inc., and the scholarship helps students interested in industrial technology pursue their career goals.

Becky is an active student in and out of the classroom. She says, "I have thoroughly enjoyed being a student at OCtech, and this is a wonderful learning environment. If you keep your sights set on your goals and gather all the information you need to achieve them, anything is possible. Younger students can sometimes fall in the trap of being too laid back, but I know what it takes to succeed, and I have learned over the years that if you want something you go get it."

submitted by Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

Legislative Priorities 2011-2012

Preparing South Carolinians for Real Work in the Real World

Maintain Base Funding

According to the latest available data, fifty-two percent of all undergraduates in South Carolina public higher education are enrolled in the Technical College System. This equates to over 226,000 students. Because South Carolinians are seeking the education and training employers demand, the state's technical colleges are seeing enrollments grow at record levels. Our students depend on affordable tuition—something that grows more difficult as state funding is reduced. In order to keep higher education within reach for these thousands of South Carolinians, it is imperative that the System's base funding be maintained at 2010-11 levels.



Lottery Tuition Assistance

Budget Request: maintain \$47 million

One in three South Carolina technical college students relies on LTA. This funding provides access to affordable higher education and training necessary to enter or remain in the workforce. The goal of the System is to keep the award at no less than \$900 per semester.

CATT and readySC™

Budget Request: \$1.8 million non-recurring, \$335,000 recurring

Last year, the Center for Accelerated Technology Training and its readySC™ program trained 5,199 em-

ployees for 92 companies. Funding for this initiative will ensure that funds are in place to assist eligible new and expanding companies in meeting their workforce needs in the upcoming year.

Allied Health Initiative

Budget Request: \$4 million

Over the past four years, the System has increased Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing graduation rates by 33% and 44%. The System is optimally positioned to provide a statewide approach yet customize solutions locally to meet individual community needs for the ever-increasing demand for qualified healthcare workers.

Lottery Technology Funding

Budget Request: \$12 million

Designated technology funding is critical to innovative program delivery options as well as maintaining technology intensive areas of study. This funding allows the System to maximize return on investment by addressing common system-wide needs with a coordinated approach resulting in reduced duplication and improved efficiency.

Looking to the Future...

competeSC™

Budget Request: \$6.5 million

Nearly 800,000 South Carolinians have been identified as not having the training, education or skills necessary to fill the jobs currently available and those being recruited to the state. The SC Technical College System is the quickest way our state has to get these citizens better skilled and employable and ensure that our state remains competitive.

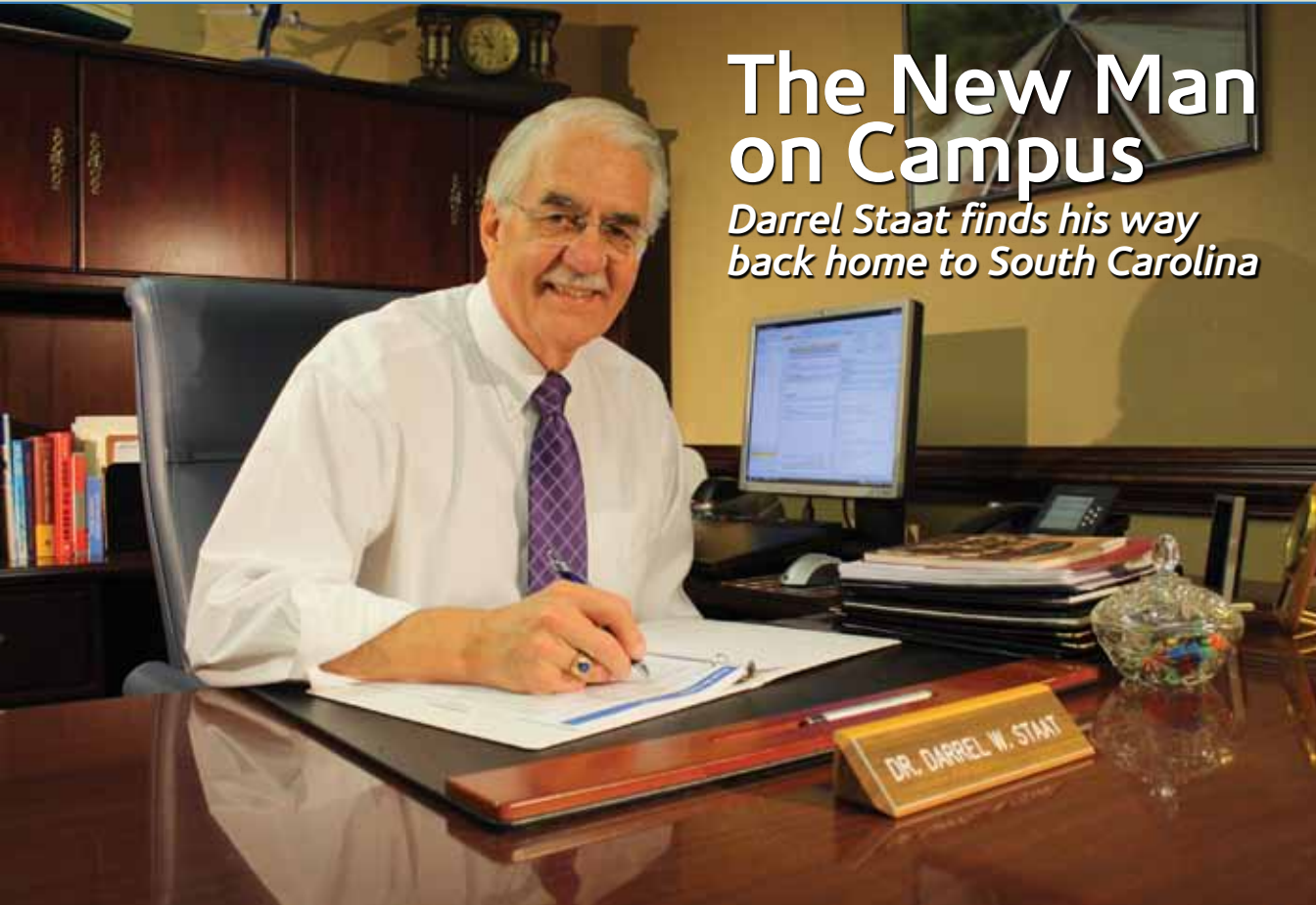
Allied Health Initiative

Budget Request: \$10 million

An appropriation of recurring dollars along with non-recurring funds will allow the colleges to meet critical allied health workforce demands as well as continue those services already in place.

The New Man on Campus

Darrel Staat finds his way back home to South Carolina



Dr. Darrel W. Staat took over the reigns as president of the SC Technical College System in August. This is not his first time in the state or the System. Staat served in administrative capacities at three of our technical colleges before his career took him to Maine and Virginia.

Now back in South Carolina, Staat faces a System experiencing record setting extremes at both ends of the spectrum. The System's average enrollment has increased an amazing 28% across the 16 technical colleges while at the same time it is experiencing unprecedented budget cuts of 50.4% over the past two years. Staat approaches this situation as he has approached many things in his life...pragmatically.

Since August, he has been on a whirlwind tour of the state meeting personally with business leaders and political leaders, including the two gubernatorial candidates. These conversations are an effort to understand fully how its external stakeholders perceive the System. In addition, Staat has spent countless hours meet-

ing one-on-one with System staff and the presidents of the local technical colleges. He hopes this internal perspective will provide insight into opportunities for enhancement.

In between his many meetings, we were able to spend some quality time with the System's new president to provide a glimpse of just who is the new man on campus.

"Bev and I are very happy to be back in South Carolina. We didn't grow up here, but South Carolina is home to us. We're glad to be home."

—Dr. Darrel Staat, System President

You've been in your position as president of the SC Technical College System since the beginning of August. How would you describe your first three months?

In a word – busy. Even so, it has been very beneficial

Darrel Staat – a personal perspective

Family:

Married to wife, Bev, with six children and seven grandchildren

Hobbies:

Golf, sailing and, of course, reading

Most interesting golf course ever played:

The Cliffs

Most important sailing accomplishment:

Teaching each of his children to sail

Favorite literary classic:

Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*

The last three books read:

- *1434* by Gavin Menzies
- *Boards that Make a Difference* by John Carver
- *Rewired* by Larry Rosen

Currently reading:

Last Flag Down, a history of the Shenandoah — the ship developed by the Confederacy during the last year of the Civil War to disrupt Union shipping

Little known fact:

Once was a part-time hog farmer

and informative. I am happy to say that when it comes to reputation, awareness and support, I've heard nothing but accolades as I talk with business, community and political leaders across the state. The System plays a vital role in the success of our state, and our stakeholders recognize and appreciate this role.

You started your career as a 7th grade teacher. Did you always want to be a teacher?

I began my career in teaching as a practical manner as I needed a job to support my family. I did not know if I would like it, but found that I absolutely loved helping students learn. I soon decided that I wanted stay in education for the long run.

How would you describe yourself as a student?

In high school, I was an average student. For the most part, my interest and grades depended on how much I liked the course and/or the teacher. I found myself consistently drawn to history and literature.

Did your interest in history and literature lead to your major in college?

As I mentioned I enjoyed literature and history a great deal. I finally chose English as my major. The decision between the two came when I found that the local school systems needed English teachers and had too many history instructors. It was a pragmatic decision on my part to obtain a teaching job.

After earning your B.A. in English from Hope College in Michigan, then your M.A. in English from Western Michigan, you went on to the University of Michigan for a D.A. in English. One must ask, what was the dreaded dissertation topic?

My topic was Technological Literacy: The Student as Inventor. I tried to address the various forms of media coming into being and affecting students. The writings of Marshall McLuhan and R. Buckminster Fuller greatly influenced me at the time. I could see that print literacy was only one medium of communication and information storage. New media was changing all that and having a significant influence on students. That was decades ago; today it is much more evident.

As we discussed, you started out your career as a 7th grade teacher but went on to spend the majority of your career working in two-year higher education institutions. What drew you to community colleges?

A fellow teacher at the junior high school where I taught earned his Master's degree and subsequently went to work in a local community college. He encouraged me to consider this same career path, which I did. I received my M.A. in English two years later and went to work at the same local community college.

Many professors make the transition from teaching to administration. When did you decide that you wanted to take this path with your career?

I had been in the classroom for about 10 years and was looking for a new challenge. As luck would have it, the opportunity to be a department chair presented itself at the community college in Michigan. I found I could do that kind of work very well, and I enjoyed it.

How would you characterize your management style?

I would say that my management style is patterned after the book *Good to Great* by Jim Collins. I first read this book in 2003 and was very impressed with it. It resonated well with me and corresponded with some of the characteristics I already practiced. I took the book to my staff at Central Virginia Community College. With all of us being former teachers, we decided to teach the book to each other a chapter at a time over a period of a few months. The process worked very well. The administrators and I adopted the principles and led Central Virginia Community College very successfully as a result.

What drew you to concepts laid out in Collins' book?

I had read many management and leadership books over the years. In fact, I still read about four each year just to keep with what is going on that milieu. Collins' book was truly outstanding and very pragmatic. It was the result of a lengthy research project and brought together what worked in management and leadership over the years.

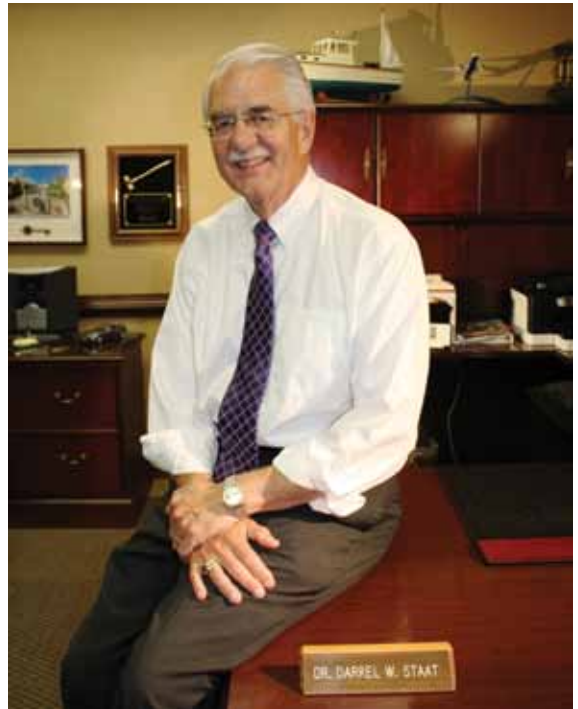
If asked to summarize the benefits of this approach in one sentence to someone not familiar with the book, how would you respond?

I would use the first sentence from the book. "Good is the enemy of great." I can remember reading that sentence, and it drew me in. I decided then to read the book edge to edge.

You've served as President at three different colleges over the years. At each of these colleges, what is the one thing for which you would like to be remembered most?

At Central Virginia Community College, I'm particularly proud of two things. First, the development of the AREVA Technology Center with the upgrading of six labs serving the technical programs was quite an accomplishment for the college. The second achievement would be the complete renovation of the library bringing it to 21st century standards.

At York County Community College in Maine, we truly developed that college from an idea to reality. We received \$1.6 million to start the college and 80 acres of land a little over a mile from the ocean. In the end, it took just over \$10 million to initiate the college. Our accomplishments were numerous. We raised money for a school that did not exist. We changed state law to



Dr. Darrel Staat

allow a state building be constructed with private funding. We started the first Internet library in New England and had the college fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges within five years of our charter by the Maine legislature.

At Eastern Maine Community College, I would have to say that I'm most proud of the high involvement, team environment we created. I led and taught extensive team training to all faculty and staff. The end-result was a true paradigm shift in culture. The college completely changed from one autocratically run to one that valued the input and ideas of all faculty and staff. What's more, we accomplished all of this in a union environment.

What would you like your legacy to be as president of the SC Technical College System?

I don't plan on leaving just yet. Although, when I do, I would like to be able to confidently say that I helped the SC Technical College System and the state become better than they are today. I see tremendous possibilities for our state. I welcome the opportunity to play my part in making improvements for all concerned in the areas of education, business and economic development.

SRNS 'Invests' \$50,000 in Aiken Technical College's Nuclear Education Programs

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) recently donated \$50,000 to help develop ATC's nuclear education programs.

SRNS traditionally hires graduates of ATC's radiation protection technology program.

"This donation is an educational investment in our company," said Garry Flowers, president and CEO of SRNS. "ATC is where our future is happening."

Currently ATC's radiation protection program is one of the largest in the country. According to Dr. Susan A. Winsor, "This gift will help ATC train workers in radiation protection and for other nuclear industry jobs. The nuclear industry is expected to add 10,000 jobs over the next ten years."

SRNS is located at Savannah River Site, a U.S. Department of Energy facility south of Aiken that processes nuclear materials.

Downtown Health Sciences Center Offers Innovative Technology

The new Health Sciences Center in downtown Sumter is now open. The 60,000 square-foot Health Sciences Center includes state-of-the-art classrooms, labs and simulators.



Charlette Rose, the program manager for the massage therapy program at Central Carolina Technical College, flexes her arm while talking to students about the way muscles connect.

Connie Houser, an associate degree nursing instructor who has been with CCTC for more than 10 years, agreed with Ardis that the new facility is like "night and day" from the old facility.

"It's 100 percent better," Houser said. "It's remarkable equipment and space wise. It meets the needs of the students much better."

The students are also liking the new surroundings. Tommie Banks, 48, is in the beginning phase of the associate degree nursing program, but he took some classes in the previous building as well. He said students can now train on the latest equipment and experiment with new technologies in the classroom.

"It's really cool," he said. "Central Carolina offers an outstanding program. It's comparable to other universities in state and outside the state. It's comparable to top notch medical facilities. ... I couldn't have picked a better program or time to get back into the medical field."

"We have the same students and faculty, but the equipment and physical resources are so much better," said Mary Jo Ardis, the associate degree nursing and practical nursing department chair. "They are so much more up to date. It allows the faculty to be a lot more innovative in teaching."


www.denmarktech.edu

Dr. Michael M. Townsend, Sr., President

"A New Beginning: Where Great Things are Happening"

Like its slogan, "A New Beginning: Where Great Things are Happening," Denmark Technical College has had several new beginnings start in 2010. DTC began 2010 with a new president. Since coming to DTC, Dr. Michael M. Townsend, Sr. has begun raising academic standards; instituted a student code of conduct pledge; started the faculty and staff on a customer service and efficiency improvement program and promoted DTC tirelessly in the community and elsewhere.

Another new item is DTC's STEM Academy. Students who qualify for the academy are enrolled in a curriculum heavy in STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and math. The purpose of the STEM Academy is to ready students for science and technology careers and meet a growing national need for more young people in these fields for the United States to maintain a competitive edge in global technological markets. The academy also creates a good foundation

for these students to transfer to a four-year college to pursue STEM-related majors. DTC's inaugural STEM Academy attracted 21 students who are attending through scholarships.

Over the summer, DTC also hosted two new events, the Gateway Academy and a robotics institute. Gateway Academy was a week-long summer camp that allowed middle school students to create a catapult, a solar-powered car and other devices while learning the STEM-related concepts behind them. Similarly, the robotics institute let public school students in the region learn about technology through a robotics project.

"With the robotics institute and Gateway Academy, DTC is looking ahead to its future students and hopefully instilling in them a curiosity about a technical education," Townsend said.


www.fdtc.edu

Dr. Charles Gould, President

Florence-Darlington Technical College Receives Grant for Day Care Program

Florence-Darlington Technical College received a half-million dollar boost for its on-campus day care program, thanks to recent federal grants. The college has had an on-campus day care center since 2005, in conjunction with Head Start of Florence County, which provides an educational program for young children. Dr. Shelley Fortin, vice president for enrollment management for student services, said the grant money is priceless when it comes to helping students find good childcare services.

"One of the biggest reasons people can't either attend school or stay in school is because there aren't very many affordable childcare centers for them," Fortin said.

Fortin said the grant is an academic win-win for both parents and children and helps parents help themselves. The childcare program is a necessity on a campus, where the student body is more than two-thirds women.

"There's that integration of education that will help with student's retention and it will also help with those young ones to be ready when they go on to kindergarten," Fortin said.

The grant is designed to help those who are not enrolled in the Head Start program. Parents must be enrolled in the Student Support Services program to use the program.

Greenville Technical College Awarded Gift from Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company

Greenville Technical College has received \$50,000 from the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation to support *Achieving the Dream*, a nationwide initiative aimed at helping students succeed.



Greenville Tech students Corey Gilmore and Megan Bouwkamp, who have increased their math placement scores due to *Achieving the Dream* efforts, receive a check from Brian Rogers and Brent Weaver of Wachovia Bank. They are joined by Dr. Keith Miller and Steve Valand, vice president for education.

Greenville Tech is one of over 100 colleges and universities in 22 states that are part of *Achieving the Dream*:

Community Colleges Count, which works to help more students enroll in college, make progress, persist from term to term, and graduate, thus improving their own lives and contributing to a healthy economy. The initiative focuses on students who traditionally face the most significant barriers to success, including minority students, working adults, and students from low income families.

Achieving the Dream focuses on analyzing data to guide priorities and decisions. The initiative provides on-campus coaching with faculty, staff, and leadership, assistance with data collection and analysis, access to information on innovative and successful practices at other participating colleges, networking opportunities and resources, and guidance on engaging the college and the community in supporting student success.



www.hgtc.edu
Neyle Wilson, President

Roundabout Is Symbol of Inter-Agency Cooperation

With historically high enrollments at Coastal Carolina University and Horry Georgetown Technical College, traffic on University Boulevard was bound to be a bear—especially for students walking from one college to the other. HGTC President Neyle Wilson and Coastal Carolina University President David DeCenzo said they were especially glad when local and state governments agreed to fund and build the county's first multi-lane roundabout on University Boulevard in record time.

The City of Conway, S.C. Dept. of Transportation Chairman Danny Isaac and Rayford Vereen, chair of the Horry County Transportation Committee responded fast to a half-million-dollar funding request last spring from HGTC Vice President Harold Haw-

ley. Officials vowed to build the roundabout before fall classes began, and their promises proved golden.

"Research tells us roundabouts improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians," President Wilson said. "All of us were motivated to help students stay safe, but beyond that, the roundabout adds character and charm to both campuses, and makes crossing the road easier for all—even Chanticleers."

Officials from both college campuses, Conway Mayor Alys Lawson, Isaac and Vereen gathered at the beginning of fall semester to cut the ribbon, re-opening University Boulevard after a summer of closure. Enrollment at CCU approached 8,700 and 8,000 at HGTC.



www.midlandstech.edu
Dr. Sonny White, President

Midlands Technical College Offers New Engineering Technology Programs in Critical-need Employment Areas

To address the critical need for highly skilled technicians in clean energy and advanced manufacturing, Midlands Technical College (MTC) is offering two new engineering technology programs for Fall 2010: the Mechanical Engineering Technology Associate Degree and Alternate Energy Technology Principles Certificate. The Mechanical Engineering Technology program was created at the request of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G), Michelin North America and other businesses in the Columbia area to address the immediate and projected need for skilled technicians in the nuclear power industry and advanced manufacturing.

The 76-credit-hour Mechanical Engineering Technology program covers thermodynamic systems, hydraulics and pneumatics, heat transfer, and manufacturing

processes. Graduates will be qualified for work as manufacturing technicians, power generation and delivery technicians, operations personnel, and machine tool and industrial automation specialists.

MTC's new Alternate Energy Technology Principles Certificate program was created also to meet local workforce demand. The two-semester, 24-credit-hour program includes fundamentals of analytical instrumentation, manufacturing processes, basic electrical systems, material properties, fuel cell technology, solar energy, mobile and stationary power systems, and engineering project management. Successful graduates of the program will be qualified to enter the workforce as medium-level operators, laboratory technicians, water quality technicians, or senior manufacturing technicians.



www.netc.edu
Dr. Ron Bartley, President

Record Enrollment and Recognition for Role in Economic Development

Northeastern Technical College experienced record enrollment this fall with more than 1,200 students starting classes in August. Student enrollment is more than 18 percent higher than the end of the 2009 fall semester and is more than 9 percent higher than the previous record of 1,114 set during the fall semester of 2004. The College contributes the record enrollment to an increase in community awareness, expanded online learning opportunities and an increase in dual enrollment students.

NETC was among 10 community colleges that received the Jerry Award from the Charlotte Regional Partnership for its significant value to business recruitment efforts in Chesterfield County, one of the three

counties Northeastern serves including Chesterfield, Marlboro and Dillon counties.

The College was further recognized for its contributions to economic development with an article published in *Industry Week* magazine. The article highlighted NETC's partnership with Screwmatics, a Page-land, SC based manufacturer that provides CNC and screw machine produced components to the medical, welding, power transmission, distribution, industrial switch components and valve industries. The College played a significant role in assisting the company in obtaining its ISO 9000 quality certification as well as employee training for expansion.

New Joint Transfer Program and QuickJobs Development Center

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College and South Carolina State University have joined forces to offer a comprehensive joint radiation protection technology program with a \$224,526 grant from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Currently professors from both institutions are collaborating to develop a state-of-the-art curriculum with the first two years of the program offered at OCtech and the second two years at SCSU.

This joint transfer program is the only one of its kind in the state with students obtaining an associate's degree at OCtech to become health physics technicians and they then can transfer to SCSU for two years to complete their bachelor's degree and become health physics managers. Students can begin to apply for the program in the spring of 2011.

The OCtech QuickJobs Development Center in St. Matthews, SC opened to the public on July 19 with



OCtech QuickJobs Development Center in St. Matthews

its ribbon cutting held on October 13 in conjunction with the adjacent Calhoun County Library effectively opening the Calhoun County Learning Center. This expansion will allow a greater number of citizens access to educational opportunities being held at this new facility.

PIEDMONT Technical College

www.ptc.edu
Dr. Ray Brooks, President

Piedmont Technical College Signs Agreement with Clemson University

Piedmont Technical College recently signed an articulation agreement with Clemson University that will make it easier for students in PTC's veterinary technology program to continue their education. The partnership will allow students to start at Piedmont Tech and then transfer to Clemson University with ease to complete their bachelor's degree.

"We are very excited to continue our partnership with Clemson University," said Susan Timmons, vice president of educational affairs at PTC. "This agreement will provide an opportunity that many Piedmont Technical College students never dreamed they could have."

The agreement will provide students the opportunity to earn their Associate in Applied Science degree with

a Veterinary Technology major at PTC, then they will transfer into the Bachelor of Science degree program to pursue the Equine Business or Animal Agribusiness concentration at Clemson.

"We are very excited about this agreement," said Dr. Ray Brooks, president of PTC. "We are continually striving to find as many pathways as possible to allow our students to become successful."

"We want to see all of our students succeed, but not all of them are ready to come to Clemson right away," said Barbara Speziale, associate dean of undergraduates in Clemson's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. "Some of these students are best served by attending a smaller college that is closer to home."



www.sccsc.edu
Dr. Para Jones, President

SCC Dedicates Academic Building to Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.

Spartanburg Community College (SCC) honored Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr. on Wednesday, September 29 for his support of Spartanburg Community College's Cherokee County Campus at a naming dedication of the Harvey S. Peeler, Jr. Academic Building.

Gary Towery, chairman of the Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education, presented Senator Peeler with a resolution on behalf of the Commission and the College.

"This honor today has a very special meaning for me. For you to place my name on an academic building, the words 'Thank You' just don't seem strong enough. But from the bottom of my heart, thank you," said Sen-

ator Peeler. "The 'Field of Dreams' attitude of 'If you build it, they will come' turned out to be an education and economic development bonanza for our county."



Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr. in front of the Academic Building



TECHNICAL COLLEGE
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

www.tcl.edu
Dr. Thomas Leitzel, President

TCL Lands Geothermal Training Center Grant

TCL has received a \$25,000 grant from the S.C. Energy Office to establish a Geothermal Training Center. The grant will allow college faculty to be trained and certified in International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) standards and will fund the purchase of geothermal training equipment and materials. Faculty will then be able to train and certify ground source heat pump installers. Geothermal energy uses power that has been extracted from heat stored deep within the earth and is increasingly valued for being cost effective and environmentally friendly.

"With the increased emphasis on energy conservation and the tax credit incentives, many homeowners are upgrading to geothermal equipment," said Everett Feight, TCL's dean of industrial technologies.

This increase in demand means that the job market for IGSHPA certified technicians in TCL's four-county

service area – Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties – will continue to grow. Plus, geothermal training will give students a competitive edge when looking for jobs.

"This project, with its emphasis on alternative energy and green technologies, is extraordinarily timed to meet the emerging needs of the area workforce," said Bill Bootle, a former local HVAC business owner and TCL Commission member.

"Job seekers with geothermal certification from TCL will have a definite advantage in today's job market," said John Tuckwiller, another Lowcountry HVAC business owner.

For more information about any of TCL's alternative energy programs, please contact Everett Feight at (843) 525-8296.

QuickJobs Training Center Opens at Easley Campus

Before the start-up of the first class in Tri-County Technical College's new Easley QuickJobs Training Center, representatives from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) met with College officials for a tour and a progress update on the turning lane project the Commission funded for the new Easley Campus.



Easley Campus QuickJobs Training Center

Designed to assist in workforce training and skills development for the College and for Pickens County, the QuickJobs Training Center is funded through a \$986,364 grant from the State Department of Commerce to Pickens County. Instructors from the Corporate and Community Education Division will teach training courses specifically based on locally identified needs and shortages.

The pre-engineered 4,600-square-foot-building houses three classrooms, one that accommodates industrial classes and has a shop area, a computer lab and offices. ARC provided a \$500,000 grant to Pickens County

for construction of an access road that will serve the QuickJobs Training Center and the Academic Building. With ARC assistance, the county will construct approximately 2,400 linear feet of road improvements including a turn lane, drainage systems, pavement, and traffic signals at the intersection of Cardinal Drive and Powdersville Road (the entrance to the campus). In addition to the ARC funds, the Pickens County Transportation Committee is providing \$250,000, and Tri-County has committed \$610,000. Additional state and local investment in the campus will exceed several million dollars. The total cost of the ARC project will be \$1,360,400.



TTC Receives Grant To Protect Local Food Culture

Trident Technical College has received a \$46,047 planning grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to establish a Lowcountry Foodways Project. The project will document the African, Caribbean, English, French, and Native American roots of the region's food-related traditions. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's museums and libraries. TTC was the only college in South Carolina and the only two-year college in the country to receive an award.

Rapid regional, environmental and demographic changes threaten the cultural traditions and memory of the Lowcountry area between Wilmington, NC and Jacksonville, FL. To respond to these threats, TTC will partner with the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture to develop a fieldwork

plan to collect foodways oral histories, identify and assess relevant archival collections of primary sources, and build a database of materials suitable for digitization in an anticipated future project.

"Everyone loves food, particularly Southerners," said TTC librarian Laura Barfield, project director. "The Lowcountry Foodways project will be the first culinary collection to focus exclusively on Lowcountry culinary history. The project will culminate with an interactive digital resource that serves the needs of both town and gown. Along with scholarly research, community involvement is key to the success of this project and we will tap into the food memories and collections of our most valuable resource, the wonderful people of the Lowcountry, who have a unique multicultural heritage that has shaped the food traditions of this region."

WILLIAMSBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE

...your college, your future

www.wiltech.edu

Dr. Kim McGinnis, President

Williamsburg Technical College, WCSD Join Forces to Help High School Students

Williamsburg Technical College (WTC) has collaborated with the Williamsburg County School District to form the Career and Technology Education (CATE) program to help high school juniors and seniors in Williamsburg county.

Through the CATE program memorandum of agreement and grant monies provide by Waccamaw Council of Governments Workforce Investment Act (WIA), high school students 16 years of age or older can take courses at WTC in such areas as basic construction trades, basic automotive repair technology, basic machine tool technology and basic welding technology which give them high school credits toward graduation and also gives them up to 25 hours of college credit to either get hired into a position or transfer into

a degree, diploma or certificate program at an accredited institution of higher education.

"We go the extra mile at WTC to make sure our area high school students are ready to enter class when classes begin," says WTC President Kim McGinnis.

Included in that "extra mile" are such preparations as providing opportunity for students who have not taken the ACT or SAT scholastic aptitude tests to take WTC's COMPASS placement test free as early as a semester ahead of their WTC entrance and offering the opportunity for high school students to complete the College's admissions process during special times set aside for them.



www.yorktech.edu

Dr. Greg Rutherford, President

Duke Energy Donates Facility to York Technical College

Duke Energy recently handed over to the York Technical College Foundation the deed to the facility in Chester where the college has been operating the Chester Workforce and Learning Success Center for the past year. The announcement of Duke Energy's generous donation in support of workforce development efforts in Chester County marked the latest partnership effort between the company and York Tech.

"For many years, Duke Energy has worked side by side with the people of Chester County to make their community a better place to work and live," said York Technical College President Dr. Greg Rutherford. "The generous gift of the Saluda Street facility will help hundreds of men and women gain the skills and training they need to get a job or find a better one."



(left to right) Tony Vaughan, Area Commissioner; Dr. Greg Rutherford, president of York Tech; Catherine Heigel, president of Duke Energy Carolinas (SC); and State Rep. Greg Delleney Jr.

